

RECOGNITION OF GOVERNOR
EDWARDS' BIRTHDAY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th birthday of Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana. One of eight children, Governor Edwards learned the importance of helping others at a very young age, which he's shown through his profound strength and leadership in governing our great state of Louisiana. A retired Airborne Ranger for the United States Army and a diligent public servant, Governor Edwards has always put his community and nation first.

Within his first 8 months in office, Governor Edwards has focused on the state's crippling budget crisis, led our recovery from the historic floods that destroyed more than 100,000 homes, and worked to bring the community together after two tragic shooting incidents. Through it all, he has focused on the positivity in our citizens and the need for rebuilding our state.

Governor Edwards has faced every task and issue with an optimistic attitude, always believing that better days would be coming for Louisiana. I am proud to wish my friend a happy birthday.

HONORING FLOYD "SHAD"
MESHAD

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my dear friend and committed community advocate Floyd "Shad" Meshad for his forty four years of work advocating on behalf of America's veterans.

Shad served as a Captain in the U.S. Army and as Medical Service Officer in the Republic of South Vietnam. There, he counseled soldiers in the field who were suffering from a multitude of psychological and emotional problems resulting from their experiences in combat.

Upon his return to the States, he continued this work, dedicating himself to serving American veterans through counseling and pioneered treatment techniques for what would later become known as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD.

Shad's accomplishments are a testament to his commitment to the wellness of veterans. In 1971, Shad started the Vietnam Veterans Re-Socialization Unit, where he spent eight years helping veterans readjust to civilian life. And in 1978, Shad worked to develop and lobby for the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Act, which launched an investigation of PTSD and other psychological issues experienced by some Vietnam veterans. The following year, he founded the Vet Center Outreach Program, which to this day provides readjustment counseling for veterans at more than 300 locations across the country.

In 1985, Shad also founded the National Veterans Foundation (NVF), whose mission is to support veterans in crisis and provide serv-

ices to better the lives of veterans and their family members. The NVF operates a crisis hotline that offers on-the-spot crisis counseling and resource referrals for veterans of all wars.

Shad has received many accolades for his efforts. He is a recipient of the Veterans Administration's Administrator's Commendation & the VA Special Contribution Award and has been featured on many major television networks and news programs including 60 Minutes, 20/20, Dateline, Nightline, and CNN News. He also authored the book, *A Captain for Dark Mornings*, which chronicles his experiences during the war in Vietnam.

My family has known Shad since the 1970s when he worked with my husband Walter to develop the curricula for a class on the Vietnam War at the University of California, Santa Barbara in my district. By offering his personal experiences in Vietnam, Shad has helped thousands of young minds better understand the war through the unique perspective of both a soldier and a therapist.

Shad is a dear friend and I am so grateful for his unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans. His dedication to easing our combat veterans' transition to civilian life is truly inspiring. Through his personal work and the work of the organizations he founded, more than 350,000 veterans have received help with financial problems, mental health issues, receiving VA benefits, healthcare, employment, housing, family counseling, and many other issues.

I am honored to recognize Shad's countless achievements and I would like to express my upmost gratitude for his service to America's veterans. I wish him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDI-
ANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED
CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oath of citizenship on Friday, October 21, 2016. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On October 21, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Citlalli Guadalupe Lindsey, Milan Torlak, Susan Wambui Njoroge, Balwinder Kaur Kandola, Alberto Trevino Alvarez, Daniel Alvarez Sanemeterio, Yolanda

Barrera, Timothy Overcomer Cangmah, Michelle Buenaventura Capatan, Emmanuel Chigozie Chijioke, Jacqueline Esther Diah, Teresa de Jesus Alcaraz de Diaz, Guillermo Diaz, Veronica Fernandez, Raul Garcia, Claudia Edith Hernandez Franco, Adolfo Hernandez, Ahmed Hjayyer, Francisco Javier Jimenez, David Leonardo Lagunas, Javier Lira, Shaima Ramzi Musa, Vivian Thuy Nguyen, Kim Nguyen-Rienks, Elodia Ontiveros, Nareshkumar Kantilal Patel, Kishankumar Nareshkumar Patel, Jinal Patel, Immaculee Gakwaya Songa, and Valentina Trifunovic.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on October 21, 2016. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING TREE TRUST

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tree Trust, to recognize and commemorate the 40th anniversary of an organization devoted to ending joblessness and expanding the urban tree canopy.

Founded in 1976, Tree Trust was inspired by a simple idea: Improve the environment while investing in people. Tree Trust does exactly that through reforestation drives, employment training, and environmental education programs. They have fought for countless reforms to public programs that now provide meaningful opportunities to serve the community and connect with the outdoors.

For 40 years, Tree Trust has transformed lives and landscapes. They have planted and distributed nearly 90,000 trees and shrubs while investing in over 55,000 youth and adults since their inception. I know the quality of Tree Trust's work first hand. Since being elected to Congress, I have joined them for many tree plantings and community service days. Many summers, I have had the honor to present the Governor's awards at their Youth Employment Program Awards Picnic to outstanding young people who are improving our community.

My driving force in Congress is making a more generous, inclusive, and sustainable society. I want young people to believe that they have the power to make a meaningful change.